(b) if so, the names of the institutions country-wise, providing such arrangements in the country alongwith the locations thereof; and

(c) the number of persons likely to be benefited annually by these arrangements and the expected annual expenditures to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Government does not maintain information about foreign institutions providing IT education in the country.

TPDS beneficiaries in Maharashtra

4553. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested by Government of Maharashtra to increase the number of Targeted Public Distribution System beneficiaries in the State from the present 65.34 lakhs on the basis of population as per 2001 census; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra has requested for increasing the number of BPL beneficiaries under TPDS from 65.34 lakhs to 69.34 lakhs on the basis of the increased population as per the 2001 census.

The allocation of foodgrains at subsidized Central Issue Prices (CIPs) for BPL families is made as per the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 based on the methodology of the "Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor" constituted by the Planning Commission. At the time of introduction of TPDS the BPL families were estimated on the population projections of 1995. From December, 2000 onwards, the BPL families are being estimated as per the latest available population

projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000, thereby increasing the total number of BPL families from 596.23 lakh to 652.03 lakh at the national level.

Based on poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and population projections as on 1.3.2000, the number of BPL households in the State of Maharashtra is estimated to be 65.34 lakhs. This basis of estimation of BPL families for allocation of foodgrains under TPDS is uniform for all the States and cannot be altered for one State in isolation.

Export of rice

4554. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'Navbharat_Times', dated the 12th April, 2002, under the caption "Behad kam kimat par kiya ja raha hai achchi kism ke chaval ka niryaat"; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rice was being offered for export from the Central Pool @Rs. 5650/- P.M.T. (raw) and Rs. 6000/- P.M.T. (par boiled) since 26.05.2001 for the financial year 2001-02. The said rates would continue upto 10.05.02. FCI has also allowed a margin of 2%+ equivalent percentage of reduction in brokens as per Bill of lading or 'H' form. The brokens are allowed to be sold in the domestic market.